

REMARKS

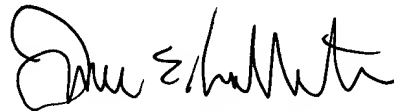
Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 6 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 5. Claim 3 is hereby canceled, along with claims 5 and 15. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1. In addition, the claims have been amended to overcome the 35 USC 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 1. All amendments are deemed to be non-narrowing, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: June 14, 2004
JEL/att
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L9289.00111
STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
1615 L Street, NW, Suite 850
P.O. Box 34387
Washington, DC 20043-4387
Telephone: (202) 408-5100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200